

Jamaica seeks slavery reparation

Jamaican MPs are seeking to revive a slavery reparations commission that could lead to requests for compensation from Britain or repatriation of some Jamaicans to Africa.

The government said in a statement on Friday that Youth and Culture Minister Lisa Hanna has asked the cabinet to create a new commission. The previous one disbanded in February 2010 because of financial difficulties. If formed, the commission would hold public hearings, document the existence of any previous reparations and research slavery's social and economic effects. Legislators would then vote on whether to demand reparations based on the commission's report. Britain abolished the transatlantic slave trade in 1807 and banned slavery in most of its colonies in 1834. Many slaves were brought to work on sugar plantations in Jamaica and other Caribbean territories.